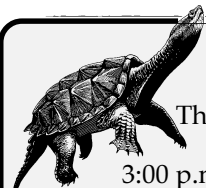


BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: the area and trails are open 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for Daylight Savings Time.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. The Nature Shop closes at 4:30 p.m. Phone: 816-228-3766

LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.BURROAKWOODS.ORG

The Nutshell

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
1401 NW PARK ROAD - BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015



Fish & Wildlife Feeding

The fish, turtles and amphibians are fed
Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at
3:00 p.m. Snakes are fed every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

What's Up Walks at BOW

During September, we're offering our visitors the chance to join a volunteer-naturalist for a walk in the woods and prairies. Each walk will give you the opportunity to learn more about the natural history of Burr Oak Woods, from how to identify poison ivy to learning about the birds and other beasts that call the nature center home. How do you join these walks? Just show up at the nature center at the times listed below and dress for the outdoors! Make plans to visit the nature center and join us.



Dates: Saturdays, September 13, 20 and 27.
Sundays, September 14 and 28.
Times: Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.
Sundays: 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All

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The Nutshell

SEPTEMBER 2003
Volume 17
Number 9

Newsletter of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center



Bluegrass Comes to Burr Oak Woods! Outdoor Concert: Green Side Up!! Friday, September 5th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

You are invited to the nature center for an evening of bluegrass music at its best with Green Side Up. This five-member band has been performing bluegrass and old time music for 30 years - and we're delighted to have them here for an evening outdoor concert on Friday night, September 5, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs for an evening sure to please everyone.



Feast of Color and Sound -Live Performance! Friday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Take a mini-vacation for the spirit with professional photographer and musician Lloyd Grotjan. Wildlife to wildflowers, savanna to forest, intricate details to sweeping vistas... sit back and watch as Lloyd combines the best of his twenty five years of nature photography with his original music from the CD releases "Songs from the Ozark Plateau" and "Twelve Moons." Performing on various acoustic instruments while immersed in dissolving color images, Lloyd's programs are a feast of sight, sound, color, and feeling.



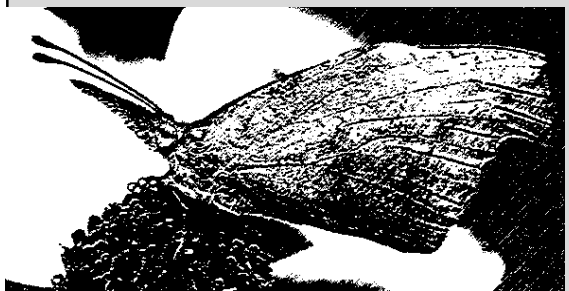
NATURE & THE ARTS PRESENTS: Ann Grotjan Nature Pottery Saturday, September 13th

Ann Grotjan, a potter and sculptor, has worked as an artist for the Missouri Department of Conservation until opening her own studio outside of California, MO. She uses the color of the clay body as a design element. Intricate carving, piercing, or sculpting on the surface sets Ann's work apart from the ordinary thrown vessel. The inspiration for her work is generally organic, whether it is abstract or realistic. "It might be the curve of a lizard's body and tail, or the flight of a soaring hawk. I am very interested in nature and it never ceases to amaze me, the variety and number of subjects nature has to offer for my work." She has a line of garden related pottery that includes planters, herb tags, bird feeders, bird baths, and more! Come join us anytime between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as we watch Ann at 'work'. Her wonderful creations will be for sale as well!

Butterfly Bonanza!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Join us at Burr Oak Woods for an afternoon of beautiful butterflies and their kin. From capturing and tagging migrating monarchs to making unique butterfly crafts, you and your family are sure to have a fun and enjoyable time and learn something to boot! You'll get eye ball to compound eye with butterflies, find out why butterflies are called scale-winged insects and try your luck at catching these fleet-winged wonders. We'll also have a special program on attracting butterflies to your yard as well as provide opportunities to learn about their natural history. And, then there are the monarchs.



September is the peak of their migration and we'll join the ongoing research about these special creatures by capturing migrating monarchs, tagging them and letting them continue to their journey southward.

No reservations are required -- simply come out and join the fun. We'll see you here!

Our mission is to bring people and nature together.



From the Treetops

I was about 13 years-old walking through the orange-red brush one brisk fall morning with my dad. He carried the gun and I walked beside him. It was a good feeling. Being the middle of seven kids, I didn't get the chance very often to be alone with my dad. My older brother was supposed to go quail hunting with him that morning, but ended up having to work. My older sisters had no desire, that left me; the tomboy.

At this point in our family's dog files, we didn't have a bird dog, so we walked, just the two of us. The morning mist continued to rise and even though we didn't say anything, our hearts conversed. My dad liked going to the farm and so did I.

We came over a small knoll and startled up a rabbit who dodged through the clumps of grass here and there. My dad lifted his gun, "Should I shoot it?" "NO," I exclaimed, as most 13 year-old girls would, even a tomboy. I was Okay with hunting birds; I had to clean most of them. But, it just seemed like shooting a rabbit was different territory. It was a mammal after all. He lowered his gun and watched the rabbit run off, then looked down at me. I looked back afraid to see disappointment in his eyes, instead I saw understanding. He tussled my hair and we continued to walk.

My dad taught me a lot that day, as he always did. Hunting is not about what you shoot, what you kill, how much you bring home. It's about the day, the adventure, the memory, the commune with nature. It's about being with your dad, your friend, or by yourself.

This month marks National Hunting and Fishing Celebrations across the country. Participate in a few, see what they're about, what they have to offer, have some fun. Take the morning off, put a hook in the water and remember what it's like to relax. Better yet, take a walk through some brush with a youngster, either carrying a gun, or not, and pass on the tradition.

— LYNN YOUNGBLOOD
Nature Center Manager

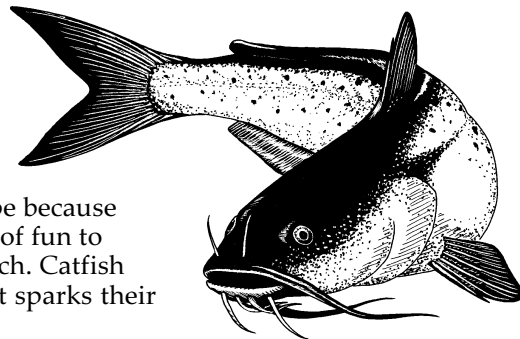
Critter Corner

Catchin' the Catfish Craze

by Stephanie Acers

Missouri is one of the best places in the United States to go fishing and catfish are one of the most popular game fish in our state. So what exactly is it about the catfish that makes it so popular? Could it be because catfish are great to eat? Or is it because they are a lot of fun to catch? No, I think it is because they are so easy to catch. Catfish are often the first fish that young anglers catch and it sparks their love of fishing.

If you want to go catfishin', here are some helpful hints from the staff and volunteers at Burr Oak Woods. First, you need to fish early morning or late evening. That's when catfish are active. Second, you need to use the right bait. Flathead catfish love live bait, where as channel and blue catfish love the "stinky" stuff. Now the bullhead will eat just about anything. Last, you need to fish on the bottom with a loose line. If catfish feel any tension in your line they will spit out the bait. For more great fishing tips stop by Burr Oak Woods and pick up a free copy of *An Introduction to Fishing*.



- NATURAL HAPPENINGS -

- ▲ Lighting bug larvae called glowworms can be found in shallow water.
- ▲ Persimmons and Pawpaws start to ripen.
- ▲ Fawns lose their spots.
- ▲ Monarch butterflies begin to migrate to Central Mexico.
- ▲ Snakes begin to hibernate.

Jim's Fishing Tips



Remember that when you are fishing the size of the hook must relate to the

size of the mouth of the fish you are after. A one pound crappie will require a larger hook than a 10-pound carp, so don't be fooled. Speaking of carp, you will have an unbelievable time catching these fighting fish. Boil soaked corn in strawberry jello, put 2 or 3 kernels on a hook and hold on!

(Editor's Note: Volunteer Naturalist Jim Hawes will share fishing tips each month in "The Nutshell." Enjoy!)

Jim Hawes

BURR OAK WOODS Conservation Nature Center

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~ Outdoor Adventures Notebook ~

My First Deer at Chigger Ridge

Adapted from a story written
by Barbara Clark, Missouri deer hunter

I hunted hard all weekend long, through the first of the week, and it was already Wednesday. My brother had left camp before the sun came up and my husband, Geoff, was still sleeping. I loaded my rifle, and set it outside the trailer. As I stepped outside, I knew this was a special morning.

Something moved. Forcing myself to stay completely still, my eyes followed the movement. There was a nice buck emerging from the timber edge. The deer was slowly walking toward the middle of the field. I made a grunt and the deer stopped. At that point, buck fever set in. I raised the rifle ever so slowly, until the crosshairs were right on the deer...or so I thought. I was shaking so



badly that I missed on the first shot. The buck just stood there looking right at me. I put another shell in, shot, and missed again. Why wouldn't my hands stop shaking? Suddenly I sensed Geoff right behind me. He placed his hand over mine and steadied my gun.

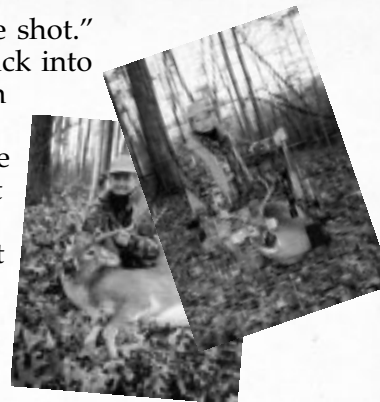
"Barb, make the shot." The deer ran back into the timber from the same

direction that he came. I thought I made a good shot. I looked at Geoff for confirmation.

"You made a good shot. Let's give him a little time." It seemed like forever as the minutes ticked by. At last, we followed the deer's trail, searching for fresh tracks, and drops of blood on the leaves. Only fifty yards in the timber lay my first six point buck. He wasn't a monster, but I sure felt a sense of pride.

I have been hunting this property we call Timber Ridge now for eight years and I have passed up a few deer. This was my first opportunity for a nice buck. At that moment, I knew I was hooked and already anticipating next year. What a story to tell. Who would have guessed that this old trailer would have become the best deer stand on Chigger Ridge.

Hunting and fishing are a big part of our heritage. Today, it is not just men that actively participate, but a growing number of women and children as well. September 22nd is National Hunting and Fishing Day. Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center will celebrate this heritage with interpretive programs that focus on these great Missouri pastimes. Come on out and share the joy of the Missouri outdoors with your family.



Burr Oak Woods' Staff Profile

Paulette Ozias



What do you like about working here?

I get to meet people from all over the country and enjoy visiting with everyone who comes to the nature center.

Family:

Donald and I have been married for 18 years. I have 3 sons, 1 daughter and 10 grandchildren, ages 4 to 15 years!

How long have you been with the Missouri Department of Conservation?

3 years.

Hobbies:

Hiking at Burr Oak Woods, gardening, crocheting and making porcelain dolls.

Other Points of Interest:

I love spending time with my family, spoiling my grandchildren and learning to play the dulcimer.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS *at Burr Oak Woods*

REGISTRATION

Call Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center on or after September 1 to register for these free programs (Phone 228-3766 V/ TDD). If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

Grandma's Story Time Saturdays in September!!

6, 13, 20, 27

Join "Grandma" for her weekly story time. Volunteer-naturalist Grace Riechmann will share her love of children's literature with fun-filled, nature-oriented stories, puppets and more! No registration is required.

Time: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Ages: All Ages

6 *Saturdays*

20 Family Fishing

It's time again to take someone fishing! Bring your young ones out for a morning of fishing fun at Burr Oak Woods. You'll learn the ins and outs of fishing and then bait a hook and try your luck at our fishing pond. We provide the bait and equipment. Participants 16-65 years of age must have a valid Missouri fishing license which can be purchased at the Nature Center. Please call to register.

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Families (5 and up)

6 *Saturday*

Babe's in the Woods

Hey babies! Tell your mom and dad! We're heading out into the woods for a special nature hike. Don't forget your stroller! Please call to register.

Time: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Ages: 1 - 3 years

6 *Saturday*

Back-packing 101: Mothers and daughters

Ladies have you always wanted to learn how to go backpacking, but did not know where to start? Then this program is for you. This two part program will introduce you to this one-of-a-kind way to explore the wild lands of Missouri.

Part 1: We'll learn what supplies that you will need to become a confident back packing enthusiast. Then we will plan a backpacking trip designed just for mothers and their daughters. What a great way to spend time together, and meet other girls and women with similar interests. Please call to register.

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: 13 & up

Part 2: Could there be a more spectacular time of year than this to absorb nature in its glory? We will enjoy an overnight backpacking trip into the Missouri autumn forest on **Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5.** You must have attended Part 1 to participate. Please call to register.

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Ages: 13 & up

7 *Sunday*

Nature's Sketchbook

Being out in the field and sketching our natural world is the perfect way to study nature. Bring sketchbook and creative spirit! Please call to register.

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Ages: Adults

9 *Tuesday*

10 *Wednesday*

Little Acorns: It's a Buggy World

Bring your little one out for a look at the world of little ones - insects that is! We'll find out what makes an insect an insect and head outdoors in search of our 6-legged friends. Be sure to dress your children for the outdoors and weather. Please call to register.

Times: 9-10:15 a.m.
or 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Ages: 3-6 years

11 *Thursday*

Home School: Bugs "R" Us

Join us for a day of six-, eight- and more-legged fun! We'll be taking a look at the world of insects and their relatives. Your children will get the opportunity for eye-to-compound eye looks at butterflies, beetles, grasshoppers and more. Throw in a millipede, centipede and spider and we're sure to have a great day of learning. Please call to register.

Times and Ages:

3-5 year olds: 9-10 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.
6-8 year olds: 9-10 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.
9-12 year olds: 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.
13 and up: 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.

12 *Friday*

Fall Bird Walk

Now that the temperatures are cooling down, its time to get back out and do some bird watching. Join us as we walk the trails of Burr Oak Woods looking for young of the year and early fall migrants. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. No registration required.

Time: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Ages: Adults Only (20 & up)

SEPTEMBER EVENTS *at Burr Oak Woods*

13 *Saturday*

Little Acorns: "Gone Fishin"

Hey kids come join us for a "fishing good time" at Burr Oak Woods. We will learn about some common fish in Missouri and then try to catch a few. Dress to be outside. Please call to register.

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: 3 - 6 years



16 *Tuesday*

Conservation Kid's Club Fishing Extravaganza!

Join the club as master fishermen Marvin Roberts and Jim Hawes share their secrets on how to catch the big one! Participants will have the opportunity to catch a fish. Then we will learn how to filet the fish we catch, and cook these filets to perfection! Guess what we will do next? Please call to register.

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Ages: 7 - 10

20 *Saturday*

Dr. Nutcase

Have you ever gone hiking or hunting and not seen a single wild animal? Do you have ANY idea why? It could be something that YOU are doing. Let Dr. Nutcase teach you about how animals smell you, hear you, and see you LONG before you smell, hear or see them! Please call to register.

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Ages: 7 and up

Attention Home Schoolers!

Burr Oak Woods is pleased to announce a new series of programs and age ranges for home school programs for 2003-04. We are dedicating the second Thursday of each month to home school children and providing programs for four different age ranges. In addition, you will be able to choose either the morning or afternoon session. The age ranges will be as follows: 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds and 13 year olds and up.

Furthermore, there will be a specific topic covered each month, using methodologies that are age-appropriate and which build upon each other. Lastly, each program will have a significant outdoor component, so please dress your children for the outdoors and with regard to the weather. We are kicking off the year on Thursday, September 11 with a look at the world of insects and other arthropods (see September 11 descriptions). Please join us.

20 *Saturday*

Possum Trot Orienteering Clinic

Join the Possum Trot Orienteering Club as they teach you the basics of finding your way through the woods and fields using a compass and topographic map. You'll even go through an outdoor course, so dress for the weather. Bring your own compass, if possible. Please call to register.

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon
Ages: Families (children must be accompanied by an adult)

21 *Sunday*

Xeriscaping for the Home Garden

We're welcoming back the Master Gardener's Speaker's Bureau for another informative presentation. This month they will present a program on xeriscaping, a style of gardening that has gained popularity in recent years. Please call to register.

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Ages: Adults (18 and up)

21 *Sunday*

Hiking Club: Weston Bend State Park

Join volunteer-naturalists and members of the hiking club for a walk along the trails of Weston Bend State Park north of Kansas City. Be sure to bring water, a snack and your sense of adventure. Please call to register.

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: Adults (ages 20 and up)

26 *Friday*

Fall Bird Walk

Do you have a budding birder? Great! Bring him or her to the Nature Center for a morning bird walk. Bring your binocular or borrow one of ours. No registration required.

Time: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Ages: Families

27 *Saturday*

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Families: World of Missouri's Prairies

Discover the beautiful grasslands where the bison and elk once roamed. Learn about the grasses and wildflowers found on the prairie, as well as the the factors, both human and natural, that made the prairie a unique ecosystem. Please call to register.

Time: 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Ages: Families



Can you guess what Missouri species the snake is that are displayed on the program page?

Hint: It is not poisonous and plays dead like a opossum when he feels in danger.

To find the answer, request a copy of the **Missouri Snakes** brochure.

